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PRIORITY

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

033.1100-HE/9-1052

XR 760.00

XR 398.18-PICME

FROM : HICOG BOHE

DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

September 10, 1952

REF : Circular Airgram Control #670, July 8, 1952

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SUBJECT: Visit of Refugee and Escapee Sub-Committee of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary.

I. Administrative

1. The Refugee and Escapee Sub-Committee of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary visited Berlin and the German Federal Republic from August 25, 1952 to August 31, 1952. Members of the group were:

Hon. Robert C. Hendrickson (R., N.J.)
Mr. Richard Arenas
Mr. Drury Blair
Mr. Frank W. Schroeder
Mr. William Arenas
Mr. William Webster

Chairman
Counsel
"
Staff Member
" "
" "

2. The itinerary of the Sub-Committee was:

Monday, August 25, 1952 - Berlin

11:30 - Senator Hendrickson and wife arrived by plane. They were met at the airport and billeted at the Harnack House.

21:00 - The five staff members arrived by Air Force plane. They were met at the airport and billeted at the Harnack House.

Tuesday, August 26, 1952

09:30 - The group was briefed by Mr. Eugene V. McAuliffe, Executive Secretary, Berlin Element, HICOG, on the general situation in Berlin.

11:00 - A further briefing was given on "Berlin and its Refugees" under the leadership of Mr. James C. Flint, HICOG, Berlin Cultural Affairs. Participating were Mr. C. J. Seavarda, Public Safety; Mr. M. E. Bove, PEP, all of Berlin Element;

State Department review completed

FA:DP:G:Shops & PEP:W:resman

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Gay J. Swepe, Chief, Special Unit, PEP; Lt. Col. R. D. Albro, USCOB; and Capt. E. J. Kolb, Berlin Military Post.

13:00 - Lunch at Harnack House with Dr. Otto Bach, Berlin Senator for Social Welfare.

14:30 - Visits to refugee camps.

19:30 - Dinner as guests of Maj. Gen. Lemuel Mathewson and wife.

Wednesday, August 27, 1952

09:30 - Meeting with Voluntary Agency and PICMME representatives.

11:00 - Tour of West and East Berlin.

16:30 - The Sub-Committee, accompanied by Mr. & Mrs. Swepe, flew by courier plane to Wahn Airport, Bonn.

18:30 - The plane was met by Mr. Harry Grossman, Acting Chief of the Escapees Program Division, HICOG, and Mr. Harold W. Graham, Chief of the Reception Bureau, HICOG, who arranged with the German customs officials to forego the usual entrance procedure. Party drove immediately to the Codesberger Hof where they were billeted.

Thursday, August 28, 1952 - Mehlen

09:30 - Briefing conducted by the following members of the U. S. High Commissioner's staff:

Economic situation - Mr. Frank J. Miller, Deputy Chief, Office of Economic Affairs

Labor situation - Mr. W. Lloyd White, Labor Attache, Office of Political Affairs

U.S.I.S. Program - Mr. Alfred V. Boerner, Acting Chief, Office of Public Affairs

Welfare situation - Mr. Peter Stanne, Social Service Adviser, Office of Public Affairs

Admission of Non-German Refugees - Mr. William D. Canfield, U.S. Attorney

" - Mr. Julius I. Rudolf, U.S. Attorney

Refugee Programs in Germany - Mr. Harry Grossman, Acting Chief, Escapees Program Division, Office of Pol. Affairs

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Representatives of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees and PICMRE were called in to brief the group on their activities.

Mr. Russell H. Barr and Mr. David Christian, SRE-MSA, Paris, participated in the program scheduled for August 28 and August 29.

12:45 - High Commissioner Donnelly entertained the Sub-Committee at lunch. Other guests included Mr. Swope, Mr. Barr, Mr. Christian, Mr. Miller, Dr. Hans Lukaschek, Minister for Expellee Affairs; Dr. Hans Ritter von Lax, State Secretary of the Ministry for All-German Affairs, and Dr. Hans Thedieck, State Secretary of the Ministry for All-German Affairs. Mrs. Handrickson was entertained at a small luncheon given by Mrs. Donnelly.

15:00 - Minister Lukaschek, plus members of his staff and ^{of} the Ministries of Interior and All-German Affairs briefed the Sub-Committee in the Expellee Ministry building. A number of German newsmen were also present.

18:00 - The Sub-Committee drove to Frankfurt where they were billeted in the Carlton Hotel. Mr. Swope, Mr. Graham and Mr. Grossman escorted the group through the rest of the program in Frankfurt and Nuernberg.

Friday, August 29, 1952 - Frankfurt

10:30 - Voluntary Society Conference held at the Headquarters Building. Representatives of 15 agencies were present.

12:00 - Lunch with HICOG staff members, Mr. Eric M. Hughes, Deputy Chief, PEP Special Unit; Lt. Col. L. W. Smith, G2, USAREUR; Lt. Col. W. R. Donaldson, USAREUR.

13:30 - Briefing by Lt. Col. Donaldson.

14:15 - Briefing by General Lucian K. Truscott, Jr. and staff.

16:00 - The group left for Nuernberg on a special diesel train.

20:00 - Arrived Nuernberg, escorted to Grand Hotel by General Ernest Bixby, Nuernberg Military Post Commander.

Saturday, August 30, 1952 - Nuernberg

10:00 - Tour of Nuernberg.

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- 12:30 - General Bixby entertained the entire group at lunch. Guests included General C. H. Swartz, Chief, Special Activities Division, members of General Bixby's staff and military personnel scheduled to conduct the afternoon briefing.
- 14:00 - Briefing by Major H. A. Benton, Chief 532nd M.I.S., Headquarters 7th Army, Stuttgart; Lt. Col. D. H. Boone, Commanding Officer of Region 6, 66th CIC, Nuernberg; Major F. Z. Kovak, Region 6, 66th CIC, Nuernberg.
- 15:30 - The group inspected Camp Valka, near Nuernberg, the largest camp in Germany housing escapees.
- 17:00 - The group drove to the VIP Guest House, Munich, where they were met by a staff member of the Consulate General. They were scheduled to spend the night and the following morning in Munich, and drive to Linz on Sunday afternoon, August 31. The HICOG escort left them at Camp Valka, but automobiles were assigned from the Munich Consulate for the Austrian tour. Plane reservations were made for 11:05, Tuesday, September 2, from Munich to Copenhagen.

II Substantive

A. INTERESTS - The Sub-Committee expressed interest in the problem of over-population, particularly in respect to refugees. Their questions indicated they were concerned with 1) possible overlapping of programs in the refugee field conducted by the U.S., Federal Republic, voluntary societies and international agencies; 2) the effectiveness of migration in solving overpopulation problems; 3) the effect of the refugee influx on internal security in Germany; 4) the effect of special U. S. immigration legislation for refugees on internal security of the United States, and 5) possible U. S. help to be made available in the general solution of refugee problems.

B. BERLIN - The briefing given by Mr. E. V. McAuliffe at the Headquarters of the Berlin Element of HICOG was a fine presentation. He covered the whole field of U. S. activities in Berlin with only slight reference to the refugee problem as that was to be treated separately. He had his material arranged in a smooth and orderly manner. It was illustrated with numerous maps and charts which are arranged ingeniously on overhead rollers permitting them to be brought into the center of the front of the briefing room very easily. He spoke without notes and presented his material in such a connected manner as to discourage questions during his talk. His effort made an excellent impression upon the group. Following that briefing, which consumed about one hour and a half, the group moved into another conference room where the refugee problem was treated more specifically and more fully. This was under the leadership of Mr. J.C. Flint who also made a fine impression. It was immediately obvious, as has been otherwise reported, that the group had no very special interest in the Escapee Program. It was just as obvious that they had a rather hostile feeling toward it.

and it was stated that most of them knew nothing about its existence until after their arrival in Europe. They were keenly interested in the intelligence and security aspects of the refugee situation. Capt. Kolb of the Berlin Military Post gave a fine description of the activities of the various U. S. intelligence and security agencies in connection with the processing of refugees, German and non-German, who arrive in Western Berlin. At their luncheon meeting on the 26th of August with Senator Bach, that official of the Berlin Municipal Government took full advantage of his opportunity to present the grim aspect of the refugee problem upon Berlin and upon the Federal Republic. Senator Bach speaks English very fluently. He was a German member of the League of Nations staff for years in Geneva and was an expatriate during the entire Nazi period. He made a telling impression upon the group. The meeting with the voluntary societies produced nothing extraordinary. The society representatives, following the usual Berlin line, advocated that all refugees arriving in Western Berlin should be taken to the area of the Federal Republic. Here, as everywhere, Mr. Richard Arens, counsel to the Committee, asked penetrating and usually leading questions, trying to bring out that there is considerable duplication in this field. The PICMG representative, although the group usually indicated some hostility to that agency's program, made a favorable and convincing statement. Visits to refugee camps developed no unusual reactions but were extremely valuable in acquainting the members of the group with the actual situation.

C. BRIEFINGS IN WESTERN GERMANY

1. The HICOG briefing started with a summary of the U.S. Information Program, in which Senator Hendrickson expressed a special interest. Following this the Social Service Adviser gave a picture of the welfare situation and the Labor Attache presented employment and unemployment data. To the extent possible, these presentations indicated how the refugee population compared with the native population.

The economic briefing emphasized the role played by ECA/NSA in special programs for German and non-German refugees. Then the procedures for the admission of German and non-German refugees were discussed, followed by a brief outline by representatives of UNHCR and PICMG on the programs of these agencies in Germany. The section on refugee problems briefly outlined the objectives of the President's Escapee Program (Despatch #645, September 5, 1952) as the economic portion of the session had covered German refugee programs.

The briefing at Bonn, given by a number of people, was not quite as smooth and connected as that given in Berlin. However, the participants were well prepared for their part and gave a creditable performance.

2. The briefing by the Federal Republic officials consisted of a history of the refugee problem in Germany delivered by Minister Lukaschek. The Minister apparently recognizing this meeting as a most desirable opportunity, became

completely wrapped up in his subject and after talking for one hour and fifty minutes, Senator Hendrickson arose and as politely as possible, informed him that the group would have to go on to its next point of activity. It was apparent that Dr. Lukaschek was quite crushed with the realization that he had actually, in his enthusiasm, presented his argumentation in such a detailed manner that he thereby failed to get his "punch line" across, namely, the great opportunity the U. S. has to give some financial assistance to the solution of the problem, and all of this with a number of important German newsmen sitting around the table.

3. The voluntary societies placed heavy emphasis on the dateline of January 1, 1948, being used by the Escapee Program to determine priority of refugees for aid under the program. Almost every speaker requested that the dateline be moved back to 1945. Secondary emphasis was given to the need for special U. S. immigration legislation.

4. Minister Lukaschek and Dr. Theodor Oberlander, Bavarian State Secretary for Refugee Affairs, met the Sub-Committee at Valka. Minister Lukaschek's briefing ended with a plea for aid to East Zone refugees as well as to non-German refugees.

B. HIGHLIGHTS AND COMMENTS

1. The impact of the emergency situation in Berlin was evident in the Sub-Committee's attitude. While it was apparent that the Committee was far from ready to recommend solutions to the German refugee problem, their questions and conversations showed that they considered immediate action necessary. They did state their agreement with HICOG that the German refugee situation was a Federal Republic responsibility, and that U. S. efforts should be confined to assisting where possible and when requested.

2. The opinions of U. S. officials were solicited on the effect of the refugee influx on internal security. Direct statements were made by members of the Sub-Committee on the danger to U. S. security through the admission of refugees, particularly non-German refugees, into Western Germany and the United States. Replies by some U. S. officials evidently supported the fears of the Sub-Committee. Mr. Richard Arens, consistently and persistently pressed every U. S. officer, and more particularly those in the intelligence and security fields, for an admission that the security of the U.S. and its interests in Germany is threatened by lack of care in applying security methods. This usually centered upon actions of the State Department, the D. P. Commission and the I.R.O., by praising the work of the security and intelligence officers and tempting them to say that one or the other, or all, of these three agencies had paid no attention to their findings. They frequently got affirmative answers. Thus, CIC officers admitted that the D.P.C. frequently disregarded glaringly derogatory information turned up in the case of individual D.P. applicants for emigration.

to the U.S.; and that the I.R.O. in collusion with D.F.'s connived at the falsification of basic information and facts. In an interview with General Truscott, he admitted upon being questioned, that the State Department did not refer names of Foreign Officials accredited to the U.N. to him for investigation of their political reliability before admitting them to the U. S. General Truscott pointed out that his organization's files in Washington are among the most thorough and comprehensive of their kind in the world and that undoubtedly the State Department had access to them. He also stated that his organization could not undertake to make any large number of such complete background investigations, as its responsibility lay in other fields. It is feared that Mr. Arens may not have taken very extensive notice of these two latter statements made by General Truscott.

3. It was also evident that the Sub-Committee believed too many agencies were working on refugee problems and that overlapping of effort was resulting in financial waste. In their discussions of the problems with the voluntary societies, the Committee consistently returned to the attack on the question of overlapping and duplication. For some reason, Mr. Arens had a fixed belief that the O.E.E.C. was very active in the refugee field. He was informed by HICOG, consisted of the expenditure of one million dollars for a study which resulted in a report (the name of which probably less than five people could remember).

4. The Sub-Committee showed little interest in the question of the Escapee Program dateline. They asked only one question on the subject and apparently agreed with the HICOG explanation that PEP aid was intended to supplement assistance given by other agencies and that it was hoped that combined PEP and voluntary agency projects would eliminate discrimination between groups of refugees. As already indicated, the representatives of the voluntary societies in the Frankfurt meeting made a concerted and determined assault upon the January 1, 1948 dateline. Apparently, because it represented controversy, Mr. Arens added considerable fuel to the fire. It is quite likely that continued and strong representations may be addressed directly to the Department on this point.

5. The Sub-Committee considered Camp Valka one of the best they had seen. The few small PEP projects completed and those in process at Camp Valka have greatly enhanced its general appearance and have already raised morale to a considerable degree. There is no doubt that these evidences of the PEP Program were instrumental in creating a favorable impression of the camp in the minds of the group.

III ~~Situation~~

Due to the numerous changes in schedule prior to and after the arrival of the Sub-Committee, the administrative planning had to be carried out under

considerable difficulty. Nevertheless, the entire trip proceeded smoothly and the group appeared pleased with all the arrangements.

It is impossible to predict what trend the Sub-Committee report will take. While many of their comments indicated a reluctance for further U. S. initiative in trying to solve the European refugee problem (see II, B, above) it was also evident that the size and seriousness of the entire problem in Germany did cause their concern. While Mr. Arens exhibited the most caustic and critical attitude, it was frequently apparent that Senator Hendrickson, although showing a very mild and friendly exterior, was rather generally in agreement with the propositions and conclusions of the former. Besides expressing resentment at not having been consulted before the initiation of the PEP Program, it was also evident that the Committee had been deeply offended by the Department which they blamed for writing a negative statement opposing the resolution which set up the Sub-Committee. Among the material to be sent to them, they specifically requested figures on the number of refugees in camp, the number receiving public assistance, the amounts spent on refugee assistance, the division of contributions between the Federal and Länder governments, and copies of the Refugee Settlement Act and the Refugee Redistribution Act. They also requested definitions of the various groups of refugees and escapees and a budget breakdown of the PEP operations, as well as its terms of reference as laid down by the President and the Department.

Before their departure, the members of the Sub-Committee complimented the HICOG and other U. S. agency members who participated in the tour and briefings, adding that in their opinion, the U. S. agencies in Germany were doing a good job.

Gay J. Swepe

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